

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 SSM-05 H-02 SIG-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
PRS-01 /099 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/INS - MR. KUX
NEA/PAB:MR. LANDE

-----040013Z 060931 /72-61

O 032306Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USCINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JAN. 3

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
JANUARY 3, 1977:

Q. IS THERE ANY COMMENT ON PRESIDENT SADAT'S INTERVIEW
STATEMENT ABOUT A PLO STATE BEING LINKED TO JORDAN?

A. THERE HAVE NOT ONLY BEEN COMMENTS BY MR. SADAT, THERE
HAVE BEEN A LOT OF COMMENTS BY ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS
IN THE PAST FEW DAYS AND WEEKS. I WILL JUST MAKE A
GENERAL OBSERVATION ON ALL OF THEM. FIRST, THAT WE ARE
NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS. BUT OUR
BASIC VIEW IS THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST ARE GOOD, AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT MAJOR
PROGRESS MUST BE MADE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY THE PARTIES
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CONCERNED TO ACHIEVE PEACE.

Q. WHEN, IN THIS YEAR?

A. WE BELIEVE THERE IS A DEGREE OF URGENCY TO IT. THAT
IS WHAT WE ARE SUGGESTING.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY "PROSPECTS FOR PEACE ARE GOOD", ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT THE ABSENCE OF WAR, OR ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT SOMETHING FORMAL?

A. I AM ANSWERING THAT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE VARIOUS
STATEMENTS BY ARAB AND ISRAELI LEADERS.

Q. I KNOW THE CONTEXT, BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DO YOU
EXPECT A FORMAL SETTLEMENT WITH PARTIES SIGNING AN
AGREEMENT?

A. THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT -- PROSPECTS FOR

PEACE, FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT.

Q. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN SAYING THIS FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. HAS ANYTHING NEW HAPPENED VERY RECENTLY, WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS OR THE LAST WEEK, THAT SUDDENLY IMPROVED THIS? OR ARE YOU SIMPLY REPEATING WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN SAYING FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS HERE?

A. OUR JUDGMENT IS BASED ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AS OF TODAY.

Q. THAT DIDN'T TAKE IT VERY FAR IN ANY DIRECTION.

Q. DID YOU KNOW -- WERE YOU ADVISED IN ADVANCE ABOUT PRESIDENT SADAT'S SUGGESTION OF A LINK BETWEEN THE PALESTINIAN -- ANY PALESTINIAN STATE IN JORDAN?

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A. I JUST DO NOT KNOW.

Q. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF AMBASSADOR EILTS' MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT? ACCORDING TO SADAT, IT WAS AT EILTS' REQUEST.

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THAT.

Q. AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH FAHMY.

A. AMBASSADOR EILTS IS OUR ACCREDITED MAN IN CAIRO, AND OBVIOUSLY HE DOES MEET WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS. BUT I DO NOT HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON MEETINGS.

Q. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING INDIRECTLY FROM THE PLO, OR FROM PALESTINIAN GROUPS?

A. WE HAVE NO CONTACT S WITH THE PLO.

Q. I KNOW THAT, BUT I AM JUST WONDERING WHETHER THE THINGS THAT ARE APPEARING IN THE PRESS HAVE COME TO YOU IN OTHER FASHIONS, AND NEED NOT BE CONTACT OR DIRECT CONTACT. HAS THE PLO, OR ANY PALESTINIAN GROUP, MADE SURE THAT YOU HAVE GOTTEN THESE MESSAGES?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY, OTHER THAN WHAT WE HAVE BEEN READING.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE PAKISTANI APPARENT DECISION TO GO AHEAD WITH THE PURCHASE OF A NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE?

A. NO. I JUST SAW THAT BEFORE I CAME DOWN. OUR CONCERN OVER THE SPREAD OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL WAS MOST RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS STATEMENT ON U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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OCTOBER. AND THAT, OF COURSE, REMAINS U.S. POLICY, AND ACCURATELY REFLECTS OUR CONCERN.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY SCHEDULED TO SPEAK TO THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB NEXT WEEK?

A. YES. I THINK IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED IN NEW YORK THAT THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK IS GIVING A DINNER IN HIS HONOR. I THINK IT IS ON TUESDAY, THE 11TH. AND ON THAT SAME DAY, I THINK -- I KNOW THAT THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS IS HAVING A LUNCHEON IN HIS HONOR IN NEW YORK.

I DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING BEYOND THAT.

Q. IS IT AN OPEN LUNCH?

A. I BELIEVE IT IS.

Q. IS HE SPEAKING AT BOTH?

A. PARDON ME?

Q. IS HE GIVING SPEECHES AT BOTH?

A. HE WILL MAKE SOME REMARKS.

Q. WHEN IS THAT?

A. IT IS TUESDAY, THE 11TH. THE UNION OF AMERICAN

HEBREW CONGREGATION LUNCH, I BELIEVE, IS AT THE HOTEL PIERRE, AND THE FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION DINNER IN HIS HONOR IS AT THE WALDORF.

Q. CAN YOU SEE THE PLO TAKING PART IN A GENEVA UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE WITH ITS POSITIONS ON ISRAEL UNCHANGED?

A. WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS UP TO ISRAEL ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE ARABS ON THE OTHER TO DECIDE, IT SEEMS TO ME. OUR POSITION ON THE PLO REMAINS UNCHANGED.

Q. WOULD THAT AFFECT YOUR POSITION? WOULD THAT BOTHER YOUR POSITION ON THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. I DO NOT THINK I UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION.

Q. THE QUESTION IS: WITHOUT CHANGING ITS POSITION ON ISRAEL AT THE MOMENT, WOULD YOU AGREE TO THE PLO TAKING PART IN A GENEVA CONFERENCE?

A. I THINK THE ANSWER IS THAT WHO PARTICIPATES IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IS UP TO THE DIRECT PARTIES CONCERNED, AND THEY ARE ISRAEL AND THE ARABS.

Q. I STILL WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR POSITION ON IT.

A. IF ISRAEL CAME TO THE UNITED STATES AND SAID, IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH US, IS IT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU IF THE PLO PARTICIPATES--IS THAT YOUR QUESTION?

Q. YES.

A. WELL THEN, I BELIEVE I HAVE ALREADY ANSWERED YOUR QUESTION.

Q. BOB, ON THE PAKISTANI PURCHASE OF THE REPROCESSING PLANT, DOES THAT AFFECT THE A-7 SALE TO PAKISTAN BY THE UNITED STATES?

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A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK ON THE STATUS OF ANY CURRENT PROPOSALS FOR SALES.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE JANUARY 3 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PROPOSED SALE OF A-7 AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN? IS APPROVAL LIKELY SOON?

A. --WE HAVE CONFIRMED IN THE PAST THAT PAKISTAN HAS MADE A REQUEST TO BUY A-7 AIRCRAFT.

--THAT REQUEST IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

--WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC TIME FRAME IN WHICH THE DECISION WILL BE MADE.
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